Alberta Awaits

Spring 2008

A newsletter for people interested in moving to Alberta, Canada
Produced by the Government of Alberta - Employment and Immigration

Canada Day Celebrations in London

Photo courtesy of Canadian Tourism Commission

You are invited to Canada's 141st birthday! We are bringing a taste of Canada to London's Trafalgar Square Monday, June 30 and Tuesday, July 1st. This year marks the 3rd anniversary of the annual Canada Day celebrations in Trafalgar Square and it will be one of the biggest parties of the summer. Enjoy food, music and activities with a uniquely Canadian twist. Sponsored by Travel Alberta, Canadian Affair Airlines and the Government of Alberta, this two day event is a spectacular highlight to the summer season.

Canada Day festivities kick off on June 30th with a concert featuring Canadian artists presented by the Government of Alberta. Last year, the square was rocked by headliners Sam Roberts Band, Johnny Reid, DRUM! and more. Tickets for the concert are free when you register online in advance.

On Canada Day, July 1, a range of family friendly activities are offered for everyone to enjoy. You and your children can play for the chance to win the Trafalgar Cup in the popular street hockey tournament, get the children's faces painted, or check out some of our Canadian street performers. When you join us, try some Canadian food or visit a selection of local bars who will be serving Canadian beverages such as Mission Hill wine and Canadian beer. Before leaving, remember to visit the Alberta Pavilion for some free giveaways and information about immigrating to Alberta, Canada.

Visit Trafalgar Square on July 1 and feel the spirit of Canada in London. Visit **www.canadadaylondon.com** to check for updates, register for free concert tickets and confirm your attendance to the 2008 Canada Day celebrations!

Alberta
Canada

Getting Started in Alberta

Healthcare

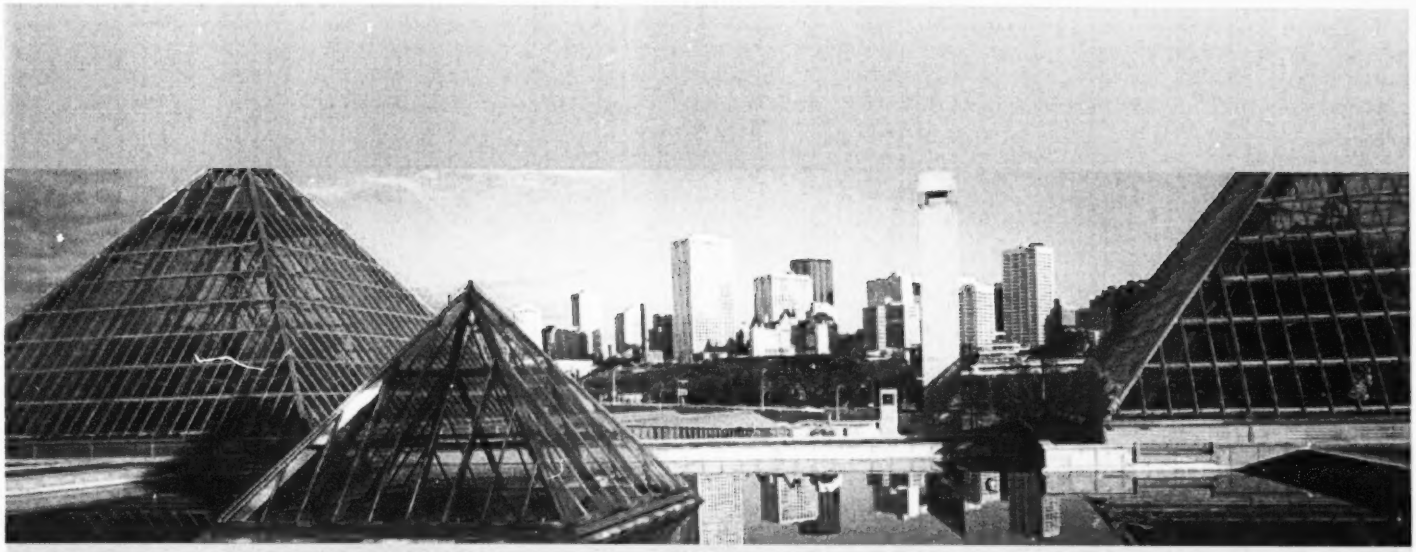
In accordance with the Canada Health Act, Alberta has a publicly administered and funded health care system that guarantees Albertans receive universal access to medically necessary hospital and health care services. There are monthly premiums to be paid by all those enrolled in the Alberta Healthcare Insurance Plan. It is common for employers to cover the entire monthly premium amount, or a portion of it. For more information, see the useful links on page three.

Within the first three months of your arrival, you must register with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan by contacting Alberta Health and Wellness at 780-427-1432 or via e-mail at health.ahcipmail@gov.ab.ca.

Once registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan, you will receive your Alberta Health Care Card along with your personal Health Care Number. Keep this card/number in a safe place as it is for your use only and may be requested in order to obtain health services. For more information on what health services are covered under this plan, go to www.health.gov.ab.ca/ahcip/AHCIP_brochure-NCN0009.pdf .

Banking

Start by setting up an account (chequing, savings or combination of both) with a financial institution of your choice. Each financial institution offers different interest rates, services charges, and additional bonuses so do some research to determine which one is best for you. Once your account is opened, you can transfer your current account balance into your new account.



Social Insurance Number

The Social Insurance Number (SIN) is a nine-digit number that you need to work in Canada and to have access to government programs and benefits. It is issued in a credit card style format and can be used as an official form of identification. Your SIN card and number should be kept confidential and in a safe place. For the fastest and most secure method, apply for your SIN by visiting a Service Canada Centre near you. For locations and more information visit: www.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/sc/sin.

Useful Links:

Financial Institutions- www.cfeedayplanner.com/en/keylists.php, click on the link 'List of Financial Institutions'

Alberta Health and Wellness- www.health.gov.ab.ca/ahcip/AHCIP.html

Driver's Licence Information-www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca/Drivers_MotorVehicles.cfm

Alberta Ministry of Transportation/Ministry of Infrastructure - www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca/Drivers-Vehicles.htm

Canada Health Act- http://hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2002/2002_care-soinsbk4_e.html

Before and After Immigration Checklist - www.alberta-canada.com/immigration/immigrate/checklists.html

Driver's License/ID

If you come to Alberta with a valid driver's licence, you can easily exchange it if the country you originated from has a reciprocal agreement with Alberta. These countries include Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain (excluding Northern Ireland). Licences from these countries can be exchanged for a Class 5 driver's licence when the applicant is presenting a valid licence of equivalent class. A valid licence from the United States can be exchanged for a Class 5, 6, or 7 when the applicant is presenting a valid licence of equivalent class. Except in a few cases, all other classes requested would require testing and must provide applicable medical and vision screening. All applicants must present immigration and residency documentation and acceptable identification.

A photo identification card is also available to an Alberta Resident who does not or cannot hold a valid Alberta operator's licence. The minimum age required for a resident of Alberta to apply for photo identification is 12 years of age.

In order to obtain an operator's licence or photo identification, proof of legal Canadian (i.e.: visa, permanent resident card, etc.) and Alberta (i.e.: third party residential lease agreement, letter from Alberta based employer, etc.) residency must be provided.